

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

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Bulletin

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"But children, you know, are forced to be somebody's guest if they have no home of their own. It's part of the undignified state of being a child."

—From THE CONSTANT NYMPH

FEDERAL RELIEF LEGISLATION AND CHILD WELFARE

By J. PRENTICE MURPHY

(Editor's Note:

The last minute developments in the matter of the Wagner Bill, appropriating an additional three hundred millions of dollars to the R. F. C. for federal relief, throws aside temporarily the more fundamental plans worked out in the La Follette-Costigan Bill S. 5125.

Family and children's workers all over the country will be deeply disappointed as a result of this development. However, the challenge is still before us. We must continue this struggle with the effects of the depression. We must work for a definite and well-organized federal relief plan for assisting families and all of their members, whether they live within the shelter of a home or are scattered in different parts of the country.)

From the standpoint of dramatic content and action the hearings in Washington on the La Follette-Costigan Relief Bill, Senate 5125, have commanded national consideration. Senator La Follette, as chairman of the Committee on Manufactures of the Senate, with the able assistance of Senator Costigan, has conducted hearings which, for thoroughness, significance, interest and purpose, have set an exceedingly high standard. The very sound and far-reaching national relief program which they have developed in conference and close association with experts from every field has received a menacing threat in the bill introduced by Senator Couzens, amended through the efforts of Senator Reed, of Pennsylvania, and within the last few days added as a rider to the Army General Appropriation Bill.

The Couzens Bill, Senate 5363, carries an appropriation of \$22,000,000 and provides for the care of unemployed boys between 17 and 21 through enlistments of one year in the U. S. Army. To some who have examined the matter superficially the use of the military service for the care of transient boys and young men seems to have many advantages. In reality it is in

complete opposition to the mountain of testimony and the recommendations of innumerable witnesses making clear that the use of camps, whether civil or military, and the congregate care of transient boys and young men, would play, should play, a relatively unimportant part in any well-worked-out and sound program of federal aid to the unemployed and their dependents in the several states.

We might as well discuss the Couzens Bill a little further because the speed with which it is being acted upon is being interpreted by some as further proof of the unwillingness of Congress to take really effective action to meet the depression disaster which faces us as a country. To segregate under military control eighty or one hundred thousand young men who have been unemployed for at least six months as the bill requires and who are able to comply with strict army tests as to health and conduct will leave unprovided for great numbers of other destitute transient or homeless young men who, by very reason of their limitations, present a far more serious challenge. Certainly the specific task which is pictured in the Couzens Bill is not an army job in any sense or meaning of the term. There are a thousand serious and unanswerable objections to Senator Couzens' proposal. It may be conceded that short term army enlistments might be able to provide some semblance of employment and training to a certain number of boys and men, but any such plan should be subordinate to the far-reaching and socially sound program for national aid which has been devised through Senate Bill 5125.

Senator Cutting introduced a bill, S. 5121, calling for an appropriation of \$15,000,000 for the relief of distress among unemployed needy transients. He did not limit it to one sex or to the physically fit, and very wisely agreed to have it expressed as a part of the general La Follette-Costigan plan. Every member of the Child Welfare League of America should study these bills, and also the testimony presented in support of the La Follette-Costigan Bill and the Cutting Bill. Copies can be secured by writing to Senator La Follette. Part I of the Hearings Report on Federal Aid for Unemployment Relief has come from the printer. There is also a report of the Hearings on Relief for Unemployed Transients which were concerned with Senate 5121. Later

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

on, Part II of the Hearings on Senate 5125 will be available for distribution. These exceedingly important documents deal with matter which is most vital to the whole field of child welfare.

The board of directors of the Child Welfare League of America at their January meeting considered certain phases and points of view on the relief situation as expressed in S. 5125. It informed Senator La Follette that it felt that the bill should be stripped of its detail definitions regarding types of state and local expenditures for relief of the unemployed which can be considered as matching a portion of the federal funds. It was urged that the language of the bill should be so broad as to allow the federal board the widest latitude in adjusting relief policies so as to meet the rapidly changing needs which are certain to present themselves. If the matching principle must be retained, it is recommended that states and localities receive credit not only for their appropriations and gifts to relief work in the narrow sense of the term, but also for grants to mothers' assistance work as well as the services performed by hospital and health, child-caring and character-building agencies.

Whereas Senator Wagner's bill continues federal aid through the R. F. C., Senate 5125 sets up a separate emergency relief board which will concentrate and specialize on the problems of emergency relief as they appear in the different states. The bill carries a request for an appropriation of \$500,000,000 for the calendar years 1933 and '34. It should be said in fairness that the R. F. C. does not deserve some of the criticisms which have been directed to it in regard to certain of its emergency relief activities. In a number of states it has supported a highly flexible program of care.

Any delay in the passing of an adequate federal relief measure at Washington is going to precipitate a series of disasters. They are going to come quickly. If the right plans are developed with the right insistence on standards, federal aid will supplement, and not destroy, private giving and public appropriations in local communities and on the part of state governments. The utmost skill of the wisest social workers and the leaders of other allied professions, the best thinking of business leaders, must be brought to bear on the task of feeding the unemployed and their families without destroying them spiritually or making them less effective for the employment which we all hope awaits them at an early day.

Federal responsibility in this unemployment crisis was clearly expressed at the Conference on the Maintenance of Welfare Standards held in Chicago late in November under the direction of the American Public Welfare Association in cooperation with the School of Social Service Administration of the University of

Chicago and the Public Administration Clearing House. A copy of the conference report can be secured from the American Public Welfare Association, 850 East 58th Street, Chicago. All of us who are interested in child welfare and family protection will support the emphasis given to adequacy of relief. We face increasing dangers if we accept without concern the starvation relief standards found in so many parts of the country. The report stresses those essential elements which are basic to good social work with families or individuals. It contains specific recommendations with reference to federal action in the development of public works. Unemployment relief is characterized as a governmental responsibility.

Some of the League members have asked that the League organize a campaign to secure direct federal grants to child-caring agencies. There is no denying the seriousness of the situation which faces all child-caring agencies. The primary emphasis at this time is being placed in so many communities on aid to families. However, it is encouraging to note how widespread has been the influence of the committee headed by Newton D. Baker, which has stressed the absolute necessity in these times for maintaining well-rounded-out social welfare programs. The sick must be cared for. The dependent and neglected child must be sheltered and the work of other agencies helping to make for character must not be allowed to die.

Even without a specific program calling for federal action or any special additional legislation, word comes that in a few states R. F. C. funds are going for the direct support of child-caring agencies and certain other agencies outside the family relief field. We shall be able to report more completely on this development in the next issue of the BULLETIN. Desperate as is the situation with some League members which are key agencies in pivotal communities, many of us still hesitate about asking for a general plan of aid to specific agencies at this time. If we can make certain that the family relief job is being wisely handled, it would seem as though our first efforts should be in the direction of securing support for child-caring agencies, hospital and health and other non-relief organizations, from local and state sources. We must guard against an easy acceptance of the statement that the private giver is fast disappearing. The total giving from private sources throughout the United States is still running up to huge totals. This fund of givers represents a body of support and a field of interest which have made possible some of the most notable achievements in the field of American social work.

But let us not forget that we need a plan. It must include the powerful activities of the federal government. There must be close cooperation between Wash-

ington and the states. The directing committee or national relief board will have a job like that of the general staff. It means the waging of a different kind of warfare against forces which are more menacing than anything this country or the world has seen.

It is fitting that we conclude this statement with a word of tribute to the work which Walter M. West, executive secretary, American Association of Social Workers, has done in organizing the presentation of testimony before the La Follette Committee. He has performed a service of the first caliber. The quality and degree of information dealing with relief needs and conditions as revealed to the Senate Committee have had a profound educational effect. Of the utmost help has been the work of Harry L. Lurie, who in addition to his work as executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Social Research, New York, has also served as chairman of the Pathfinding Committee on Governmental Relief of the Family Welfare Association of America. Children's workers, especially those within the membership of the Child Welfare League of America, are likewise appreciative of the very great help which has come from Linton B. Swift, executive director of the Family Welfare Association of America.

THE LEAGUE'S DETROIT PROGRAM

A tentative program for the sessions of the Child Welfare League of America, to be held in Detroit, June 12 to 16, at the time of the National Conference of Social Work, includes the following:

MONDAY, June 12, 3 P. M.

Recent Contributions to the Philosophy of Social Case Work. The Bearing of These Contributions on Children's Case Work. (A round table discussion based on the papers presented at the morning session, Division I.)

TUESDAY, June 13, 3 P. M.

Group Discussion 1.

A Training Program for the Staff of a Child-caring Agency.

Group Discussion 2.

Interpreting the Cost of Services of a Child-caring Agency.

Group Discussion 3.

The Institution Makes an Epochal Contribution to Our Philosophy—An Evaluation of Father Cooper's Study, "Children's Institutions."

Group Discussion 4.

Round Table on Trends in Children's Case Work (for case-work supervisors).

Group Discussion 5.

The Staff Looks at the Agency (round table under the direction of senior non-executive staff members).

TUESDAY, June 13, 6 P. M.

We Plan for the Future—Six Aspects of the Crisis in Children's Work. (Dinner for executives of member agencies.)

WEDNESDAY, June 14, 1 P. M.

In A Tragic Year—the Humorist Looks at Children's Work. (Luncheon)

WEDNESDAY, June 14, 3:15 P. M.

Joint Session with Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy.

- a. Dangers in the Practice of Bootlegging Babies.
- b. To What Extent Do Methods of Recognized Agencies Apply Solely to Handicapped Clients?

THURSDAY, June 15, 3 P. M.

Character Training in Children. (The Foster Care Agency in the Rôle of the Parent.)

THURSDAY, June 15, 6 P. M.

Annual Meeting.

The Place of Child Welfare in National Relief Programs.

Speaker: C. C. Carstens

Wanted—A Philosophy for the Children's Field.

Speaker: J. Prentice Murphy

FRIDAY, June 16, 1 P. M.

Help That the State Can Give to Private Child-caring Institutions. (Joint session with the Church Conference on Social Work.)

Speakers will be announced in the final publication of this program in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

All of the meetings of the Child Welfare League of America will be held at the Masonic Temple, where the divisional and general sessions of the National Conference of Social Work will be conducted.

The League will have no separate headquarters except for the Hotel Fort Wayne, which provides convenient and unusually economical room and meal service. This hotel is in the same block as the Masonic Temple. Single rooms with bath, located on courts, may be secured for as little as \$2.00 or \$2.50 a day or outside at \$3.00. Double rooms are \$3.00 and up.

DETROIT CONFERENCE OFFERS LEAGUE MEMBERS A CHANCE TO "COME AND SEE"

There will be interesting organizations to observe as well as important sessions to attend when the Child Welfare League of America meets in Detroit at the time of the National Conference of Social Work, June 12 to 17. The League's four members in Detroit are: Children's Aid Society, Methodist Children's Home Society, Michigan Children's Aid Society, and the Child Placing Department of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Children's Aid Society occupies exceptionally modern and adequate quarters in a new building which was planned by the present administration entirely for its own occupancy. It is refreshing to find such an organization with adequate space and modern conveniences for all of its staff and their work.

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

*President—J. PRENTICE MURPHY, Philadelphia
1st Vice-President—MISS KATHARINE F. LENROOT, Washington, D. C.
2d Vice-President—MRS. LESSING J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
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Treasurer—PAUL T. BEISER, Baltimore
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS*

The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.—EDITOR.

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CAMPS FOR DRIFTING BOYS

A census of transient and homeless persons has recently been taken by the National Committee on the Care of Transient and Homeless. It is estimated that 1,225,000 were sheltered on a given night and that 11 per cent of the total number were boys under twenty-one years of age. The amount of drifting, of which this is a measure, is fraught with most unwholesome influences.

It is proposed that camps be established under military auspices and control. This does not seem to be the correct solution. It is the conviction of social workers with boys that military camps without enlistment are not likely to hold the youth, and with enlistment are even more undesirable. It were better if camps were established in each state on an educational and vocational basis, with a certain amount of required work and with much opportunity for outdoor life and leisure, full of wholesome recreation.

—C. C. CARSTENS

New England Regional Conference

A regional conference for New England will be held by the Child Welfare League of America in Boston on April 12 and 13. Ralph Barrow, executive director of the Church Home Society, Boston, is chairman of the committee on arrangements.

National Conference of Social Work

Detroit

June 12 to 17

DETROIT CONFERENCE OFFERS LEAGUE MEMBERS A CHANCE TO "COME AND SEE"

(Continued from page 3, column 2)

The Methodist Children's Home Society cares for part of its children in its rather unique Children's Village in a suburb of Detroit. Here are cottages, some single, some duplex, with groups of eight or nine children, far more homelike than in most institutions for children. There is an intelligent staff prepared to give skilful attention and treatment to children with serious problems.

With its state-wide program of foster family care, the Michigan Children's Aid Society has, to the credit of its administration, dealt aggressively with the unprecedented problems these days are bringing to all state-wide agencies.

The diocesan scope of the work of the Child Placing Department of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul also involves heavy loads. The foster family care provided by this society, and the relation of the society to Catholic child-caring institutions, will be of especial interest to members with similar programs.

Detroit is also the home of the Merrill-Palmer School of Motherhood and Home Training, which has pioneered in adult education within the field of child care and training. It continues to be one of the busiest and most effective centers for such training in the United States.

The Children's Fund of Michigan, which not only contributes to certain child welfare services within the State of Michigan, but also operates its own program of research and service in the field of child health, is well housed in its own building in Detroit.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON CHILD LABOR

The National Child Labor Committee has prepared a lecture on child labor illustrated by forty lantern slides, suitable for presentation before church groups, women's clubs, and high school and college students. The lecture and slides will be loaned for \$2.00 and return postage.

The Committee, whose headquarters are at 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City, requests that applications for the lecture and slides state the exact date on which they are to be used and the address to which they are to be sent.

Read this Bulletin—\$1.00 per year

THREE-DAY INSTITUTE HELD IN CINCINNATI FOR INSTITUTION WORKERS

The Children's Home of Cincinnati, on January 25, 26 and 27, was host to executives and staff members of institutions located in ten counties in southwestern Ohio who have been meeting together for the past year and a half for discussion of common problems. A number of additional workers representing institutions in other sections of the State, foster mothers in and around Cincinnati, and members of the State Department of Public Welfare were also in attendance.

The registration for the three days included 130 cottage mothers, 18 foster mothers, and 28 executives from the southwestern area; 11 executives from outside this area; 2 members of the State Department staff, and several board members. The largest number of cottage mothers from any one institution came from the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home at Xenia.

Dr. J. B. Ascham, superintendent of the Children's Home of Cincinnati and chairman of the children's division of the Ohio Welfare Conference, and Mr. R. C. Brane, superintendent of the Butler County Children's Home and chairman of the southwest group of superintendents, carried major responsibility for initiating the institute. The generosity of the board of trustees of the Cincinnati Children's Home in entertaining the registrants and in helping to defray expenses of out-of-town speakers made it possible to carry the project through successfully.

Dr. Oscar B. Markey, of Cleveland, and Miss Erna D. Bunke, of the National Recreation Association, were the special discussion leaders at the various sessions. Professor James H. S. Bossard, of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke at a dinner meeting on the 26th, at which the Cincinnati chapter of the American Association of Social Workers, the Sociological Club of the University of Cincinnati, and the Social Workers Club of Cincinnati joined with the members of the institute.

Last year institution executives in the southwestern area experimented with an institute and the results were so worth while that it was decided to hold a second one which would offer opportunities for presentation and discussion of several of the more important phases of child care. There is no question but that this venture marks a significant step in the direction of improving the quality of service for dependent children in Ohio. The decision of the executives present to promote the institute idea and to work continuously on the problem of raising institutional and personnel standards should have a far-reaching effect throughout the State.

The following excerpts from the January 27 issue of the Cincinnati Enquirer sum up the points of Professor

Bossard's address, having peculiar significance in this period of economic and social maladjustment:

"There has been a steady development of a changing attitude on the part of intelligent citizens concerning social service, which is compelling a re-examination of all organized activities dealing with human problems. Social work is one of these activities. The changing attitude is a product of three main factors, first of which is the education of our self-interest, as a result of which, we realize that which happens to another, concerns us. In an independent society as ours, this is particularly so," Professor Bossard said.

"Secondly, financial pressure, mounting costs and declining incomes are making us more and more budget conscious. Some one has said that the social problem never will be dealt with until they touch the pocketbook of the man on the street. Budget cutting must be done on a selective basis, weeding out the work with low social return."

The third point of proof Professor Bossard discussed was the growth of science, which he said has been vindicated in business. "We are now toying timidly with it in the social field. This opens vistas as yet barely imagined and scarcely touched."

Under scrutiny of the present development of the social sciences, Professor Bossard said: "The following points can be raised concerning social work. Research has been put on the map by its successful demonstration in industry. . . . The state government has been derelict in that it has been spending enormous sums for the care of the defective and yet nothing for research."

The professor advocated more group social work and then asked the question:

"Is social work too preoccupied with adjusting the case to the environment instead of trying to change the latter? The steady parade in recent years of social workers into the camp of the psychiatrists and psychoanalysts has fostered an attitude of recognition."

The speaker advocated a re-examination of the program of sterilization and stated that 28 states have passed such laws, and that only California is using its law. The speaker predicted sterilization as a social measure is not dead. "It has been merely waiting for public opinion to catch up with it. Under stress of economy and with the stimulus of science, we are going to see a return of the question," he said.

Professor Bossard also advocated birth control, which, he said, Julian Huxley has called the most revolutionary discovery of modern times. When social work steps in, he said, and saves child life and permits people to live instead of starve, it has also a right and responsibility of asking something in return.

Dr. Markey, who discussed the application of a mental hygiene program to institutional life, pointed out the dangers of doing too much *for* and *to* children and not enough *with* them. Parents and parent-sub-

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

stitutes often make the mistake of giving too many resources to their children. Thus is destroyed the sense of need in the child himself for developing his own resourcefulness. "Right behavior," said Dr. Markey, "cannot be built up by knocking down."

Under the direction of Miss Bunke, the cottage mothers cast off inhibitions and played games and dramatized nursery rhymes with gusto and abandon—to the great delight of the audience of children living at the Cincinnati Children's Home.

Among other persons participating in the program were: Capt. Harold Hays, superintendent of the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphans' Home (Xenia); Eric Gibberd, of St. Edmund's Home for Boys (Glendale); Miss Verna Smith, director of case work for the Cincinnati Children's Home; Col. Milton D. Campbell, chairman of the National Child Welfare Committee of the American Legion and member of the board of trustees of the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphans' Home; James E. Stuart, executive secretary of the Ohio Humane Society (Cincinnati).

"AMERICA'S WANDERING BOYS"

Under this title, in the February issue of *Current History*, Owen R. Lovejoy, secretary of the Children's Aid Society of New York, discusses the status of transient and homeless boys in terms of their numbers, the conditions under which they find themselves, efforts of social agencies to deal with them, and some of the reasons which cause boys to wander.

"The present depression," says Mr. Lovejoy, "aggravates every normal motive for wandering."

He deals frankly with the probabilities of error in estimates of the numbers of boys who are transient or homeless. His description of services provided for such boys in New York City and other communities is greatly needed at this time. Those who have been confused by earlier publications on this subject will find Mr. Lovejoy's article helpful indeed.

Say It With Knowledge

"Make Motherhood Safe for Mothers" is the banner under which the Maternity Center Association of New York City is urging practical observance of Mother's Day—May 14.

The Association is emphasizing:

Hazards of childbirth which can be reduced have not received the attention given to hazards of industry, travel, epidemic diseases.

Every year sixteen thousand mothers die in childbirth, and ten thousand of these deaths could be prevented.

Our country loses proportionately more women in childbirth than any other country loses.

The husband and wife, the physician, the medical educator, the public—all can help to reduce the hazards of motherhood.

And—the first step towards action is knowledge.

MORNINGSIDE TRUSTEES FAVOR FOSTER HOMES

(Editor's Note:

The following article was written by Mr. William R. Bull, president of Morningside, Inc., located at Shelton, Connecticut. It is of interest because it reveals the evolution in the thinking of the trustees of an institution which, although established in 1928, was originally patterned after child-caring enterprises of an earlier era.

Some one has said that a convert to a religion is apt to be more intense in his defense of it than the person who belongs to a faith because he happened to be born into a particular family. This same thing often happens when individuals swing from enthusiasm for one form of child care to an even greater enthusiasm for another. We have learned over the years that no one method of caring for dependent children is the perfect way.

Mr. Bull sets forth the handicaps of institutional care which led the trustees of Morningside, Inc., to embark upon a foster home plan of treatment. His article is not balanced by an exposition of the difficulties which are inherent in the tasks of homefinding and supervision of placed-out children, or by a presentation of the contribution which institutions can make to a child-care program.

However, it is none the less valuable. One of the duties of board members is the obligation to analyze results in order to determine whether a social program should go on full steam ahead or whether it has reached a point where the command should be "Right about face." The trustees of Morningside, Inc., appear to have met this obligation with courage and forthrightness.)

Morningside, Inc., opened its first cottage in Lower White Hills, Shelton, Connecticut, in the early fall of 1928, and was chartered in Connecticut in June, 1929. The purpose of the trustees was to care for dependent children, for their own benefit as well as for the benefit of society. It was fully realized that the dependent child is a burden upon, and at times becomes a menace to, human society unless the problem is handled properly and with respect to each individual child. The institution was to be conducted on the cottage plan, with one matron and fourteen children to each cottage.

It was recognized that the dependent child is often quite equal, from the standpoint of heredity, to the average child. The circumstances, however, under which the dependent child is generally placed in society deprive him of the benefit of the constructive moral and social influences which are important to the proper bringing up of every man and woman.

It was the purpose of Morningside to place these children under the proper moral, religious and economic environment in the Morningside cottages and to care for them until they finished high school, and in the meantime prepare them for some useful vocation so that

they would be fitted to become useful citizens and capable of self-support at the age of eighteen or nineteen years.

Morningside received its first children in the fall of 1928. The cottage was an old farmhouse thoroughly done over and with modern plumbing and heating facilities, et cetera. The cottage was placed under the management of two carefully selected women of considerable training in welfare work who were chosen with special regard to their high moral and religious character. The children ranged in years from four to thirteen and were of both sexes. Within a few months there were eight children in the cottage. Later a one-story brick cottage was designed under the guidance of a New York architect and an institutional expert, and was completed about September, 1930, at which time the matrons and nine children moved into the latter cottage.

The conditions here presented were ideal. There was a good country school available for all the children; there was a well-managed farm adjacent for them to find employment from time to time, and there was ample opportunity for wholesome outdoor life. From the beginning a Boy Scout worker volunteered very helpful organization work among the boys. Both the boys and girls were trained from the beginning in all the arts of housework. They were brought daily under religious influence through prayer or Bible reading, et cetera, and were taken to church or Sunday school on Sundays. The trustees believed that they had launched the work permanently toward the best solution of this particular phase of child welfare work.

In spite of every effort, however, on the part of the matrons and of all concerned, it soon began to be apparent that the development tendencies of the children, especially the boys, were not as they should be. The boys, and some of the girls, were backward in their school work. Incidentally, each child had been backward in his school work at the time of entering Morningside. It was recognized that to fit these children for their work in life at the age of eighteen years, it was necessary to bring them abreast of their school work and at least up to the average in their classes. It seemed impossible to accomplish this successfully, however, and the trustees offer as a reason that a group of healthy boys in the open country is simply too much of a problem for one or two women to handle.

The question of a foster father was carefully considered and investigated. The question also of having a man come to the cottage periodically was considered, as well as several plans whereby the boys might be placed under the guiding hand of a competent man. It was found impossible, however, to contact with the right type of man and at the same time to keep within a reasonable budget. Already there were two house-

matrons and only nine children, which was necessarily relatively expensive per child and which, of course, limited the intake and the general usefulness of the institution.

It was found also that the boys developed decided tendencies toward disobedience, untruthfulness, and dishonesty. It might be that the aims and objectives of the trustees were rather too high or perhaps too critical of the boys. The trustees think not, however, in view of their purpose to turn these children out as useful citizens at the age of eighteen years. It was becoming increasingly apparent that Morningside could not make useful, self-supporting citizens of these boys unless they were brought more strictly under moral and social direction and control.

Still another negative tendency with the boys was a lack of responsibility, or obligation, toward a given task. It seemed to be almost impossible to get them to realize the necessity of performing a piece of work that was allotted them unless they were continually watched. For example: In putting them to weed the garden, to cut the grass, or drive the cows in, to thin out a peach crop, or any one of the multitudinous things to be done around a country home, they would not stick to their task to completion, and in this respect seemed incapable of assuming any responsibility whatever. Things were certainly not going right to make wage-earners out of such material at the age of eighteen years.

In the face of all these problems the trustees began thinking and investigating seriously the question of placing the children in private homes under one plan or another. Morningside had tried to give the children every proper element of home life under the cottage system, but it was becoming increasingly apparent that, at its best, the cottage was still an institution. The cottage would have from one to two grown-ups supervising and influencing as many as fourteen children; whereas, in the ordinary family there would probably be two or more grown-ups—with usually many other relatives—to influence and guide a small number of children. In other words, the cottage was light at the top, whereas the family was the reverse in this respect.

Also in practically every family (where a child should be placed) there is a bread-winner, a producing unit in society, and who is respected as such in his own community. This head of the house brings all the hopes, the fears, the problems and the achievements of his experience into his family conversations, and the boy or girl in his home hears the discussion of these problems and their solutions, and he inevitably imbibes their lessons. Such is not and cannot be the case in an institutional cottage.

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

It became evident to the trustees—especially to those who had children of their own—that the task of keeping a child up in his school work and of instilling into him a proper sense of obligation toward work and achievement, as well as a proper moral sense of honesty and deportment, is a ceaseless, patient and persistent task and must come from some one or more grown-ups who can and will keep themselves in constant, close relationship to the child. Moreover, this work of the grown-up is born of a deep sense of parenthood toward the child, and it is a question whether the child can successfully receive these benefits of precept, teaching and example except through the loving and persistent contact of a parent—or else one who properly and successfully assumes the position of parent.

With the average family the question of whether the milk is spilled in being delivered, whether the tomato crop is poor, or whether Father loses his job is of vital interest and importance. The child in family life faces these problems daily from his earliest childhood, and in this way involuntarily becomes equipped to cope with them. In the institution, even under the cottage plan, these questions as a proposition of actual daily experience are almost entirely absent.

Another point became more clear. A child can be as much of a blessing and benefit to certain families as the family can be to the child. It was decided to try to find those families where there was an obvious and legitimate desire for a child; in other words, where there was a vacancy or an incompleteness in the family circle and where the proper child could fill such a vacancy and round out the family and bring out the proper sense of parenthood on the part of the new father and mother. The trustees believe they have had some success toward this end.

In the summer of 1932 the trustees made their decision to discontinue the cottage life as one of the activities of Morningside, and to change its policy thenceforth by placing its children in families. By December this was accomplished. Two of the boys, it was found, could be beneficially sent back to their father who, with some temporary financial assistance from Morningside, could re-establish his home for these boys. Three of the girls were taken by the superintendent of Morningside, who returned to her old home in New Hampshire, and these girls are now prospering in this excellent home atmosphere. One of the boys was sent with his older sister to live with an admirable woman who could in every way be a mother to this boy, and who could give to both these children the precepts, example and discipline of an older person in home life.

It is a great satisfaction to the trustees to be able to say that there has already been marked improvement in the progress of the children, especially in the school

work and various problems of the boys. It seems apparent to the trustees that every problem which arose in the cottage life, especially with respect to the boys, is being automatically and satisfactorily corrected through the influence and discipline of family life. The trustees now believe that their present policy of placing children is correct and one on which they can safely proceed to enlarge their activities.

"Mothers and Babies First"

A pamphlet with suggestions for celebration, on May 1, of Child Health Day can be secured from the American Child Health Association, 450 Seventh Avenue, New York City. The Association is disappointed not to be able to distribute the pamphlet free. The price is 10 cents a copy; quantity prices on request.

The slogan for this year, "Mothers and Babies First," was chosen by the Child Health Day committee of the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America as especially fitting at a time when infant and child life is peculiarly in need of every protection we can throw around it.

NEW MEMBER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Juvenile Protective Association, (C), 1420 K Street, N. W. Miss Mildred Terrett, executive secretary.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

OHIO—Children's Bureau of the Social Service Federation, Toledo. Miss Portia B. Mengert, secretary, resigned. Mrs. Millicent Sutter, acting secretary.

TEXAS—Texas Children's Home and Aid Society, Fort Worth. RESIGNED.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members Only)

MORALE—The Mental Hygiene of Unemployment, by George K. Pratt, M.D. A 64-page booklet issued by The National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 450 Seventh Ave., New York, 1933. (25 cents per copy; discounts in quantities.)

REPORT—Census of Transients and Homeless Persons in the U. S., Jan. 9, 10, and 11, 1933. A mimeographed report issued by the National Committee on Transients and Homeless, 25 West 43rd St., New York.

WHERE SHALL THEY Go? To Work—or—to School? A 4-page leaflet issued by the National Child Labor Committee, 419 Fourth Ave., New York, urging a 16-year age minimum for leaving school and entering industry.